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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

an attaching means for detachably attaching a recording medium on which a sound signal encoded in a first format and a first decoding program according to said first format are recorded;

a storing means for storing a second decoding program according to a second format;

a determining means for determining whether or not said first format and said second format are coincident each other;

a validating means for validating one of said first decoding program and said second decoding program on the basis of a determination result of said determining means;

a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by the decoding program validated by said validating means; and

an outputting means for outputting the sound signal decoded by said decoding means.

2. A sound reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said decoding means adopts a first type processing system,

said first decoding program corresponding to said first type and said first decoding program corresponding to a second type are recorded on said recording medium,

said validating means includes a loading means for loading the first decoding program corresponding to said first type from said recording medium when said determining result represents disagreement.

3. A sound reproducing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

the sound signal encoded in said first format and said first decoding program are

stored in a common data file.

4. A sound reproducing apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein  
said sound signal is a music signal.

5. A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

an attaching means for detachably attaching a recording medium on which a sound  
signal encoded in a predetermined format and a decoding program according to said  
predetermined format are recorded;

a loading means for loading said decoding program from said recording medium;

a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by said decoding program

10 loaded by said loading means; and

an outputting means for outputting a sound signal decoded by said decoding  
means.

6. A sound reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

said decoding means adopts a first type processing system,

15 a first decoding program corresponding to said first type and a first decoding

program corresponding to the second type are recorded on said recording medium with  
said sound signal,

said loading means loads the first decoding program corresponding to said first  
type from said recording medium.

20 7. A sound reproducing apparatus according to claim 5 or 6, wherein

the sound signal encoded in said first format and said first decoding program are  
stored in a common data file.

8. A sound reproducing apparatus according to any of claims 5 to 7, wherein  
said sound signal is a music signal.

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